

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUCAR 00930 210141Z

46

ACTION INR-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 /020 W

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R 201040Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6708

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUCHAREST 0930

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, CA, RO

SUBJECT: BIO DATA ON ROMANIAN AMBASSADOR TO OTTAWA

REF: OTTAWA 0592

1. BARBU POPESCU IS A MEMBER OF THE RCP CENTRAL COMMITTEE (ELECTED TO FULL MEMBERSHIP IN THE NOVEMBER 1974 PARTY CONGRESS AFTER HAVING BEEN A CANDIDATE MEMBER SINCE 1967) WHOSE STEADY RISE THROUGH THE STATE APPARATUS WAS BASED ON HIS REPUTATION AS A HIGHLY QUALIFIED AGRICULTURAL TECHNICIAN. POPESCU SERVED AS CHIEF OF STATE AGRICULTURE WITHIN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, A POSITION WHICH ENTITLED HIM TO MEMBERSHIP IN THE ROMANIAN COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, UNTIL LAST MARCH'S STATE ELECTIONS WHEN HE WAS REPLACED. HE WAS SUBSEQUENTLY NAMED AS AMBASSADOR TO CANADA IN NOVEMBER 1975.

2. POPESCU HAS OCCUPIED A SERIES OF AGRICULTURALLY-ORIENTED POSITION S, BEGINNING IN 1964 WHEN HE WAS CHAIRMAN OF THE COBROGEA AGRICULTURAL COUNCIL. (COMMENT : DOBROGEA IS THE SOUTHERN COASTAL AREA OF ROMANIA BORDERING THE BLACK SEA AND MAY BE POPESCU'S BIRTHPLACE.) IN 1965 HE BECAME A VICE-PRESIDENT FOR THE DOBROGEA REGION, ALSO SERVING AS THE SECRETARY OF THE GRAND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (ROMANIAN PARLIAMENT) COMMISSION ON AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY. THAT SAME YEAR HE WAS APPOINTED VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE HIGHER COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURE, THE FORE-RUNNER OF THE PRESENT MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE. HE BECAME FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL IN 1966 AND WITH THE

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PAGE 02 BUCAR 00930 210141Z

TRANSFORMATION OF THE COUNCIL INTO THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE IN

1969 HE ASSUMED THE RANK OF DEPUTY MINISTER.

3. COMMENT: AMBASSADOR BARNES DEALT WITH POPESCU IN 1970 IN CONNECTION WITH THE OFFER OF U.S. FLOOD ASSISTANCE AND FOUND HIM TO BE AN EFFICIENT, CAPABLE TECHNICIAN, A REPUTATION WHICH OTHERS HAVE CONFIRMED. DURING HIS TENURE AS CHIEF OF STATE AGRICULTURE, STATE FARMS WERE OFTEN CRITICIZED FOR INEFFICIENT USE OF THEIR INVESTMENT FUNDS, HOWEVER WE KNOW OF NO REASON FOR POPESCU'S SUDDEN TRANSFORMATION FROM TECHNOCRAT TO DIPLOMAT OR ANY DIFFERENCES OVER AGRICULTURAL POLICY INVOLVED. ANYTHING AMEMBASSY OTTAWA MIGHT BE ABLE TO ADD ON THIS POINT WOULD BE APPRECIATED. BARNES

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